EXPECT TO HEAR MORE THIS YEAR ABOUT ALTERNATIVE MEATS. MONEY

Sunday World-Herald

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REAL. FAIR. ACCURATE.

Letting New Year's resolutions fall by the wayside can have price tag

Matthew Hansen

COLUMNIST

They walked into Prairie Life Fitness and signed up with fire in their bellies, steel in their spines, the most resolute of resolutions clanging in their heads.

This is the year I'm gonna lose that 10 or 20 pounds, that spare tire, those love handles. This is the year I'm climbing off the couch and getting my sedentary butt into the gym.

Most of us have done this on one New Year's Day or another, and for most that passion wanes as January turns to February turns to "Hey, there's a new season of 'Stranger Things' on Netflix!"

But for hundreds of Nebraskans each year, that resolution ends in a way crummier place than right back on the couch. It ends in court.

Prairie Life, one of the city's most popular gyms, sues hundreds of Omahans and Nebraskans each

See Hansen: Page 2

SARAH ROOT EFFECT

Bail amounts spike in car crash deaths

Immigration questions, drunken driving concerns appear to push increase

By Todd Cooper
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

With a gavel smack, Nebraska judges are slapping staggering bail amounts on defendants accused of motor vehicle homicide.

$750,000. One time.

$1 million — seven times.

Even $2 million.

Those jaw-dropping numbers — as much as 40 times the typical bail amount of just two years ago — have come following the national attention over a Honduran man posting bail in February 2016 and disappearing. Eswin Mejia, then 19, was charged with drinking and street racing and causing the death of Sarah Root, a 21-year-old straight-A student who had just graduated from college.

A World-Herald review of 19 felony motor vehicle homicide cases filed in the nearly two years since Root's death shows that in nine of those cases, Nebraska judges (all but one were from Douglas County) saddled defendants with bail amounts that would require them to post at least $75,000 cash just to get out of jail.

At the other extreme, just five defendants were given $50,000 bail, requiring them to post only $5,000 to be freed. That $50,000 figure had been the typical

See Bail: Page 2

PART ONE OF A TWO-PART SERIES

UNCERTAINTY CLOUDS SIDNEY REAL ESTATE

BRENDAN SULLIVAN/THE WORLD-HERALD

With Cabela's takeover by Bass Pro, experts see great challenges in replacing 2,000 well-paying corporate jobs — and filling the homes those workers are leaving

By Paige Yowell
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Jerry Cunningham knows he got a steal on the four-bedroom, three-bathroom home he bought last year in Sidney, Nebraska.

The 62-year-old retired California Highway Patrol trooper moved to Nebraska to be closer to his family. He purchased his house, a 2,200-square-foot home with a newly remodeled kitchen, for $180,000. Cunningham said he would have spent $500,000 on a similar home in Nevada, where he moved from.

He bought it from a former Cabela's employee, who bought the house in 2012 for $189,000.

Unbeknownst to him, Cunningham benefited from a recent upheaval that has flooded Sidney's housing market with properties.

Uncertainty has been high ever since Bass Pro Shops announced plans to buy Cabela's, the Panhandle town's top employer.

Bass Pro's $5 billion purchase of the company closed in late September, and integration of the two companies is well underway. Some jobs have been cut, and it's unclear how many headquarters jobs will remain in Sidney when the dust settles.

Even before Bass Pro announces who will lose their jobs, it seems many people in Sidney — a town of 6,800 where Cabela's once employed 2,000 — are getting ready to leave.

Sidney's housing market shows the dramatic effect Bass Pro's purchase of the homegrown Nebraska retailer has had.

In June 2015, four months before an activist investor announced a big stake in Cabela's and said it would push for the company to sell itself, there were 60 homes on the market in Cheyenne County, where Sidney is located.

In October 2017, after Bass Pro closed on the purchase of Cabela's and said it would consolidate the combined companies' headquarters in Springfield, Missouri, there

See Sidney: Page 8

Missile alarm 'scary stuff'

An Omaha native living in Hawaii was among those rocked by Saturday's false alarm. **Page 5A**

Too many Jays turnovers

Creighton's 92-70 loss to Xavier in Cincinnati on Saturday included a season-high 20 turnovers. **Sports**

Long-distance sister parishes

Nebraska priests' visit to Tanzania leads to a parish partnership between Omaha and Africa. **Living**

Weather

High: 31 **Low:** 7
Snow at times
Details: 8B

Index

Around&About....**6E**
Celebrations.....**6E**
Job listings.....**5-8D**
Obituaries.....**3-5B**
Opinion.....**6&7B**
TV listings.....**9D**

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102 PAGES